Need to encourage oilseed and pulses production

†3250. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to rising edible oilseeds production over the years in the world leading to their declining prices, country's oilseeds producers are faced with adverse impact thereof;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that oilseeds and pulses require less irrigation water than other agri-products; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not starting an additional scheme to encourage production of oilseeds and pulses in the country in view of present situation of water scarcity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As per reports of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) available up to the year 2007, there has not been any significant increase in the world's oilseeds production during the period 2005-07. Further, as annual production of oilseeds in the country is considerably lower than its projected demand, the marginal increase in the world's oilseeds production is not likely to have any adverse impact on the producers of oilseeds in the country.

(c) Yes, Sir. Oilseeds and pulses are mostly grown in rainfed conditions in the country. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research developed several short duration and drought tolerant/ resistant varieties of oilseeds and pulses for cultivation under moisture stress conditions in the country.

(d) Government of India is implementing various schemes to encourage cultivation of oilseeds and pulses as given below:

1. Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in 14 major oilseeds and pulses growing States.
2. National Food Security Mission - Pulses launched in 2007-08 being implemented in 171 identified districts of 14 major pulses growing States.
3. Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) Scheme which provides assistance to the States not covered under ISOPOM.
4. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) under which States can undertake oilseeds and pulses development programme.

Reforms in NARS

†3251. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.